JOINT STATEMENT OF CHAIRMAN KEVIN J. MARTIN AND COMMISSIONERS MICHAEL J. COPPS, JONATHAN S. ADELSTEIN, DEBORAH TAYLOR TATE AND ROBERT M. MCDOWELL

Re: Improving Public Safety Communications in the 800 MHz Band

We are pleased that today's item clarifies questions about the acceptability of certain relocation costs. Now that this arcane but contentious economic issue has been resolved, we look forward to the parties moving ahead with the more important and worthwhile work of conducting actual rebanding.

We also hope that our action today will spur the parties to reorient their approach to this process. As our decision makes clear, the minimization of costs is emphatically not the sole or even the primary purpose of the rebanding process. More important is that rebanding proceed as quickly and effectively as possible. After all, expeditiously eliminating interference between commercial and public safety users is the goal that motivates all of us. And we sincerely hope that all parties will keep their eyes on that prize even as they work through the details of this complex process.